

# DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

## Department of Health and Hospitals Office of the Secretary Bureau of Health Services Financing

### Professional Services Program—Reimbursement Reduction

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing has adopted the following emergency rule in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 46:153 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and as directed by the 1996-97 General Appropriation Act, which states: "The Secretary shall implement reductions in the Medicaid program as necessary to control expenditures to the level approved in this schedule. The Secretary is hereby directed to utilize various cost containment measures to accomplish these reductions, including but not limited to pre-certification, pre-admission screening, and utilization review, and other measures as allowed by federal law". This emergency rule is adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq. and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing currently reimburses for professional services according to established rates for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes, locally assigned codes and HCPS codes. Effective for dates of service July 1, 1996, and after, the bureau is reducing the reimbursement for the following CPT codes:

- 36415 - for routine finger stick to collect specimen;
- 99211 - outpatient visit, established patient (may not require physician's presence);
- 99212 - outpatient visit, established patient, straightforward medical decision-making;
- 99233 - for subsequent hospital care, medical decision-making of high complexity.

The bureau has now determined through the Legislative Auditor's Report that the fees paid for these four codes were above the southern regional average. Therefore, the following emergency rule has been adopted to decrease the fees for these four codes in the Professional Services Program to the southern regional average. This action is necessary to avoid a budget deficit in the medical assistance programs. It is anticipated that implementation of this emergency rule will save approximately \$1,536,508.65 for state fiscal year 1996-1997.

### Emergency Rule

Effective for dates of services July 1, 1996 and thereafter, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing reduces the reimbursement for the following CPT procedure codes payable under the Professional Services Program in accordance with the following schedule:

CPT CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW FEE
36415	Routine finger stick to collect specimen	\$ 2.65
99211	Outpatient visit, established patient (may not require physician's presence)	\$ 9.24
99212	Outpatient visit, established patient straightforward medical decision-making	\$18.91
99233	Subsequent hospital care, medical decision-making of high complexity	\$42.60

Interested persons may submit written comments to: Thomas D. Collins, Bureau of Health Services Financing, Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. He is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this emergency rule.

Bobby P. Jindal  
Secretary

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